

ical optics, has never been translated into English, is a reproach to both Great Britain and America. To make its valuable contents accessible to those who do not find it easy or convenient to read a foreign language will be conferring a boon on many scientific investigators in the vast and expanding territory which this book was originally intended to cover.

Incidentally, the proposed English edition will be a memorial of the hundredth anniversary of the birth of Hermann von Helmholtz, whose influence on modern scientific thought in nearly every direction has perhaps been as widespread and permanent as that of any of his great contemporaries in the nineteenth century.

It is estimated that the cost of translating, editing, and publishing this memorial volume (or volumes) will be \$5,000 or more. It is particularly desired that every individual who is interested in the success of this project and in the advancement of the science of light and vision in this country will have an opportunity of contributing towards it.

Contributions, no matter how small, may be sent to Adolph Lomb, Esq., treasurer of the Optical Society of America, care of Bausch & Lomb Optical Company, Rochester, New York. Make cheques payable to "Adolph Lomb, Treasurer."

Any one subscribing as much as \$15 will receive a copy of the complete work when it is issued.

JAMES P. C. SOUTHALL,
*President, Optical
Society of America*

DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICS,
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY,
November 28, 1921

THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF NATURALISTS

THE thirty-ninth meeting of the American Society of Naturalists, as has been noted in *SCIENCE*, is to be held in Toronto on December 29 and 30, with two symposiums of unusual interest—one on genetics and variation, by the zoologists, the other on orthogenesis, in which Henderson, Osborn, Bateson and others will take part.

It is interesting to recall that for the first

three years the society was under a paleontologist, Alfred Hyatt; for the two succeeding years under a zoologist, Grove K. Gilbert; then for two years under a comparative anatomist, Harrison Allen. Then in turn the society was presided over by the botanist Goodale, the physiologist Martin, the geologist Rice, the paleontologist Osborn, and a succession of paleontologists and zoologists until 1902, when the psychologist Cattell presided, since which time it has been chiefly under the guidance of zoologists.

The keynote to the success of the Society of Naturalists was the discovery that a more representative body of scientific men can be assembled at a winter meeting than at a summer session. This society has proved to be the mother of societies, because from its broad original organization have gone forth the six national American societies of Geology, Anatomy, Physiology, Botany, Zoology, and Paleontology, all holding winter meetings in various parts of the United States, from the eastern seaboard to Chicago. The zoologists alone cling to the mother Society of Naturalists and hold their meetings in the same time and place.

Of the founders of the Naturalists in the year 1883 there now survive the following: Libbey, Osborn, Scott, Rice and Clarke, the latter, Professor Samuel F. Clarke of Williamstown, being one of the first to answer the call.

HENRY FAIRFIELD OSBORN

THE PROGRAM OF THE SECTION OF BOTANY FOR THE TORONTO MEETING

ARRANGEMENTS have been completed to hold the Section G program on Wednesday afternoon, December 28. Since this program will be of interest to others than the members of this Section the speakers are given below.

Address of the Retiring Vice-President, Dr. Rodney H. True, "The physiological significance of calcium for higher green plants."

Symposium on "The Species Concept"

From the viewpoint of the systematist: Dr. Charles F. Millsbaugh.

From the viewpoint of a geneticist: Dr. George H. Shull.